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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## ANTIMONY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 1996

Prices for most forms of antimony drifted somewhat lower during the fourth quarter. The New York dealer price for antimony metal, published by *Platt's Metals Week*, was \$1.27 to \$ 1.40 per pound at the start of the quarter and finished the quarter at \$1.00 to \$1.10 per pound.

The price of high-tint antimony trioxide, published by *American Metal Market*, started the quarter at \$1.60 to \$1.80 per pound and ended the quarter at \$1.25 to \$1.30 per pound.

The price for clean antimony sulfide concentrate, published by *Metal Bulletin*, started the quarter at \$19.50 to \$21.00 per metric ton unit and ended the quarter at \$19.00 to \$20.00 per metric ton unit. The price for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) began the quarter at \$20.00 to \$22.00 per

metric ton unit and ended the quarter at \$20.00 to \$21.00 per metric ton unit.

In Canada, Apocan Inc. announced that it had shut its Lake George antimony mine in Prince William, New Brunswick, so that it could upgrade its hoist and thereby mine faster and extend the life of the mine by probing deeper underground. Further, Apocan indicated it would not reopen the mine until the antimony price improved.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ryan's Notes. Antimony Hubbub Settles Down. V. 103, No. 4, January 27, 1997.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

	1995	1996			
		Jan.-June	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total p/
Production:					
Primary smelter 2/	23,500	11,900	6,810 r/	7,040	25,700
Secondary 3/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Imports for consumption:	36,600	20,000	8,680	5,920 4/	34,600
Ore and concentrate	4,260	604	208	162 4/	974
Metal	16,900	9,910	3,610	3,340 4/	16,900
Oxide	15,400	9,460	4,860	2,420 4/	16,700
Exports:	8,560	2,460	1,490	832 4/	4,780
Metal, alloys and scrap	1,610	269	46	83 4/	398
Oxide 5/	6,950	2,190	1,440	749 4/	4,380
Consumption of primary antimony	14,300	6,510	3,280 r/	3,430	13,200
Price: Average cents per pound 6/	227.77	176.77	123.39	108.90	146.58
Stocks end of period 7/	10,600	11,000	10,200	11,200	XX

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data under review.

4/ Data for October and November only.

5/ Antimony oxide content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

6/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

7/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2  
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE  
UNITED STATES AT END OF PERIOD 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Type of material	1995	1996		
		Jan.-June	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Metal	2,450	3,150	2,820 r/	3,590
Oxide	4,450	4,070	4,050 r/	4,240
Other 3/	3,680	3,790	3,360	3,360
Total	10,600	11,000	10,200	11,200

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 96% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 1995. Quarterly data includes estimates from companies reporting only on an annual basis.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3  
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	1995	1996			
		Jan.-June	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total p/
Metal	2,850	1,290	581 r/	669	2,540
Oxide	11,400	5,200	2,700 r/	2,760	10,700
Other 3/	106	12	5	5	22
Total	14,300	6,510	3,280 r/	3,430	13,200

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 84% of the total antimony in 1995. Quarterly data includes estimates from companies reporting only on an annual basis.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4  
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF  
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	1995	1996			
		Jan.-June	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total p/
Metal products:					
Antimonial lead	2,230	806	380 r/	453	1,640
Other 3/	1,530	597	262	269	1,130
Total metal products	3,760	1,400	642 r/	722	2,770
Nonmetal products:					
Ceramics and glass	1,080	471	221	216	908
Other 4/	1,690	542	335 r/	231	1,110
Total nonmetal products	2,770	1,010	556 r/	447	2,020
Flame-retardants:					
Plastics	6,050	2,800	1,410	1,570	5,780
Rubber	443	126	63 e/	63 e/	252
Other 5/	1,300	100	66	64	230
Total flame retardants	7,790	3,030	1,540	1,700	6,260
Total reported	14,300	5,440	2,740 r/	2,870	11,000
Grand total	--	6,510	3,280 r/	3,430	13,200

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 84% of the total antimony in 1995.

Quarterly data includes estimates from companies reporting only on an annual basis.

3/ Includes ammunition, bearing metal and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe and solder.

4/ Includes ammunition primers, pigments, and plastics.

5/ Includes adhesives and textiles.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Country	1995	1996				
		Jan.-June	Third quarter	October	November	Jan.-Nov.
Ore and concentrate:						
Bolivia	2,050	--	123	--	99	222
Canada	481	144	--	--	--	144
China	1,060	398	38	--	17	453
Kyrgyzstan	228	--	--	--	--	--
Other	432	62	47	16	30	155
Total	4,260	604	208	16	146	974
Metal:						
Bolivia	255	100	53	--	--	153
China	12,100	6,530	2,600	1,680	1,370	12,200
Hong Kong	841	1,230	319	35	40	1,620
Kyrgyzstan	1,880	938	239	61	--	1,240
Mexico	1,630	856	311	32	82	1,280
Other	203	257	82	10	27	376
Total	16,900	9,910	3,610	1,820	1,520	16,900
Oxide:						
Belgium	926	318	391	183	71	963
Bolivia	1,720	1,570	389	256	89	2,300
China	5,630	4,060	2,390	432	396	7,280
Mexico	3,080	1,600	693	264	255	2,810
South Africa	2,640	1,300	864	233	94	2,490
Other	1,410	617	131	69	79	896
Total	15,400	9,460	4,860	1,440	984	16,700
Grand total	36,600	20,000	8,680	3,270	2,650	34,600
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	74	21	22	12	--	55

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Content of oxide is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.